THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) as per the population based Registry run by Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, Ahmedabad, a Regional Cancer Centre recognised by this Ministry, crude incidence rate of Cancer is 78.10 per lakh males and 62.90 per lakh for females.

(b) to (d) The following institutions are having cancer treatment facilities in the State of Gujarat:—

(i) Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute, New Civil Hospital Compound, Asarwa, Ahmedabad.

(ii) M.P. Shah College & Irwin Group of Hospitals, Jamnagar.

(iii) S.G. Hospital, Baroda, Gujarat.

(iv) Lions Cancer Detection Centre Trust, New Civil Hospital Campus, Majura Gate, Surat.

(v) Dalichand Nanchand Shah Cancer Institute, K.D.N. Gohil Hospital, Dudhia Talao, Nansari.

(vi) Rajkot Cancer Society, Shri N. P. Cancer Rajya Road, Rajkot.

Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute, Ahmedabad has mammograms, C.T. Sacan, Utlrasound & X-Ray machines and has a well equipped pathology department and Department of Nuclear Medicine equippped with Gama Camra and Cell Bilology Department.

(e) Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute, Ahmedabad has informed that they had recommended to the State Government for giving full facilities and recognise all patients suffering from Cancer having physical limitations, to be given full facilities as handicapped persons.

Dismantling of DPCO

*538. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's proposal to dismantle the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) has evoked sharp criticism and apprehension

that it may result in prices of even life saving drugs spiralling beyond the reach of common man;

(b) whether Government will lose their control over the drug industry and pricing of medicines, including life saving drugs, with the abolition of the DPCO;

(c) whether this aspect has been considered by Government; and

(d) if so; not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Drugs Prices Control Orders are issued by the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to implement the Policy in so far as price controls are concerned. No decision has been taken to do away with the price control regime over drugs and pharmaceuticals. Therefore, the question of dismantling the Drugs Prices Control Order and the consequent apprehension that it may result in increase in prices of even life saving drugs does not arise.

The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices. The domestic drugs and pharmaceutical industry needs support in order to meet the challenges and to avail of the opportunities arising out of liberalization of over economy and the impending advent of the product patent regime. Government has been considering measures to lessen the regours of the present price control mechanism, where they have become counter productive. Towards this end, Government has decided to reduce the span price control.

Viewers of DD *vis-a-vis* Satellite Channels

*539. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present estimated audience reach of viewers of Doordarshan's National and Metro Channels *vis-a-vis* the satellite channels;